

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

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FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Printed on Recycled Paper

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

A review of developments and news of the fishery industries
prepared in the BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

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Mailed free to members of the fishery and allied industries. Address correspondence and requests
to the: Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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The printing of this publication has been approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget,
August 2, 1955. (8/31/57)

This is an index of Volume 16, Numbers 1 through 12, issued in 1954.

Back issues of Volume 16, Numbers 1 through 12, are not available.



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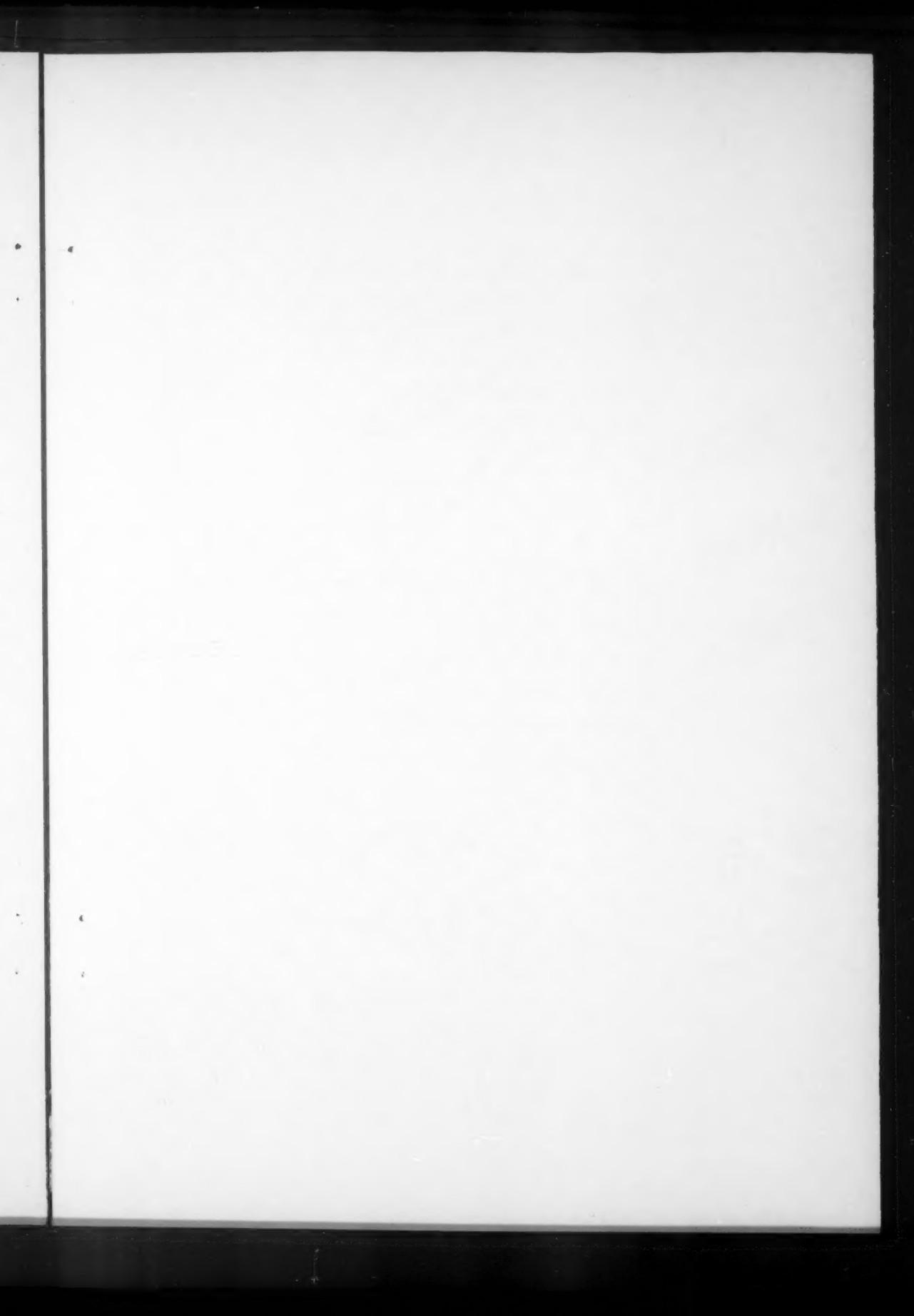
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MARKET FORMS OF FISH

Fresh and frozen fish may be bought in a variety of cuts, the more important of which are shown here. Knowing the cuts and their particular uses is important in buying or selling fish. The edible portion varies with the type of cut, from 100 percent for fillets to about 45 percent for whole fish.

	<p>Whole or round fish are those marketed just as they come from the water. In this form, the edible portion is about 45 percent of the whole, but varies with size and kind of fish. To prepare for cooking, fish should be scaled and eviscerated and, if desired, head, tail, and fins should be removed. Fish then may be used for baking, or may be sliced, filleted, or cut into steaks or chunks. Small fish, like smelt, are often cooked with only the entrails removed.</p>		<p>Steaks are cross-section slices of the larger sizes of dressed fish, usually about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick. In this form the edible portion is about 84 percent. Steaks are ready to cook as purchased.</p>
	<p>Drawn fish are those marketed with only the entrails removed. In this form, the edible portion is about 48 percent, but varies with size and kind of fish. To prepare for cooking, they are generally scaled. Head, tail, and fins may be removed, if desired, and the fish split, filleted, or cut into steaks or chunks.</p>		<p>Fillets are the sides of fish cut away from the backbone. They are practically boneless and have little or no waste. Fillets are ready for cooking. The skin may be left on or may be removed. A fillet cut from one side of a fish is called a single fillet. This is the type most generally seen in the market.</p>
	<p>Dressed fish are scaled and eviscerated, usually with the head, tail, and fins removed. Edible portion in this form is about 67 percent, but varies with size and kind of fish. The smaller sizes are ready for cooking as purchased (pan dressed). The larger sizes may be baked as purchased or may be cut into fillets, steaks, or chunks.</p>		<p>Butterfly fillets are the two sides of the fish corresponding to two single fillets held together by the uncut flesh and skin of the belly.</p>
			<p>Sticks are pieces of fish cut lengthwise or crosswise from fillets into portions of uniform width and length, usually about 1 inch wide and 3 inches long.</p>

MARKET FORMS OF SHELLFISH

Some shellfish are marketed alive. Other market forms, depending on the variety, include cooked whole in the shell, fresh meat (shucked), headless, and cooked meat.

	<p>In shell: Shellfish, such as hard and soft blue crabs, lobsters, clams, and oysters should be alive if bought fresh in the shell. Crabs and lobsters may also be cooked in the shell. Edible portion varies widely.</p>		<p>Headless: Only the tail part of shrimp is commonly marketed. Spiny-lobster tails are also a common market form. About 85 percent is edible.</p>
	<p>Shucked: Clam, oyster, and scallop meats may be bought free of the shell, commonly known as shucked. In this form the portion is 100 percent edible.</p>		<p>Cooked meat: The edible portion is picked from the cooked shellfish. Crab, shrimp, and lobster meat is marketed in this way. Cooked meat is perishable, although packaged in containers, since it is not further processed by heat. It is 100 percent edible.</p>

--Fresh and Frozen Fish Buying Manual,
Circular 20, Fish and Wildlife Service.

